

Labour Force Statistics ♦ November 2010

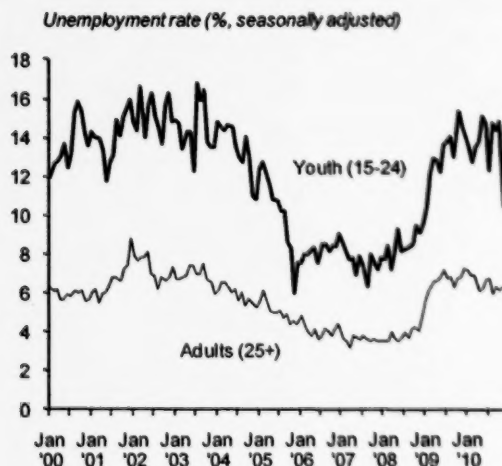
(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Unemployment rate falls to 6.9%

British Columbia's jobless rate dropped 0.5 percentage points, to 6.9% in November. This marks the first time B.C.'s unemployment rate has been below 7.0% since January 2009. However, the improvement in the jobless rate resulted primarily from persons exiting the labour market (-7,900; -0.3%), rather than employment growth (+4,300; +0.2%).

Virtually all of the persons exiting the labour market in November were youth (aged 15 to 24), causing the youth unemployment rate to plummet from 14.8% to 10.4%. Meanwhile, among adults (aged 25 and over), the jobless rate edged up slightly (+0.2 percentage points), to 6.3%.

Youth unemployment rate falls sharply in November



BCStats

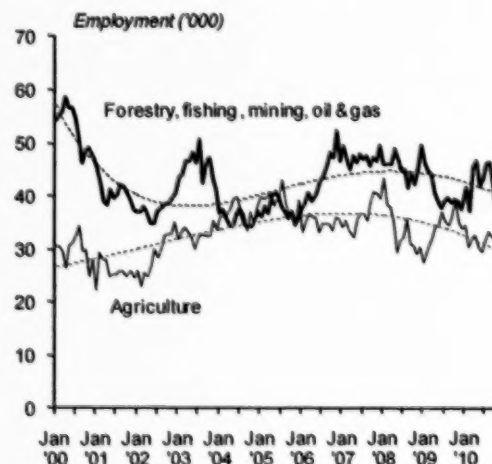
Goods sector posts job gains in November; service sector stalls

In the goods-producing sector, employment was up slightly in November (+1.2%). Most of the job

gains in the goods sector were in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+7.6%), although marginal increases in construction (+1.1%) and manufacturing (+0.9%) also contributed to this sector's growth. Employment in utilities remained unchanged, while agriculture (-3.1%) was the only goods industry to post job losses.

Despite a notable increase in November, employment in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas is quite volatile and it is difficult to discern whether this increase will be sustained over the long term. In agriculture, employment has fallen by 12.0% in the past year.

Primary industries are not yet showing signs of economic recovery



BCStats

In the services-producing sector, the number of jobs edged down (-0.1%) in November. Employment increases in business, building and other support services (+3.3%) and accommodations and food services (+3.1%) were

more than offset by declines in transportation and warehousing (-4.3%), professional, scientific and technical services (-3.8%), and public administration (-3.1%). The remaining service sector industries showed little change in November.

Off-reserve Aboriginal Population

While the jobless rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted), among B.C.'s non-Aboriginal adult (aged 25 and over) population has fallen in the past year, the rate among the same-age off-reserve Aboriginal population has increased. The jobless rate among non-Aboriginal adults fell from 6.1% in November 2009 to 5.7% in November 2010—among Aboriginal adults the rate increased from 10.4% to 13.9%.

Immigrant Population

Among the Canadian-born population aged 25 to 54, the unemployment rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted), has fallen over the past year, from 6.0% (November 2009) to 5.5% (November 2010). Among the very recent (less than 5 years) and recent (5 to 10 years) same-age-landed immigrant populations, however, jobless rates have actually worsened (from 9.8% to 13.1% and from 6.4% to 8.2%, respectively). Established immigrants (10 years or more) have experienced an improvement in their jobless rate similar to their Canadian-born counterparts.

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (3-month moving average, unadjusted) ranged from 5.8% (Vancouver Island/Coast) to 8.8% (Kootenay). Compared to the same time last year, the jobless rate in Vancouver Island/Coast has

fallen by 2.0 percentage points. In Victoria, the region's largest metropolitan area, the unemployment rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted) improved from 7.1% in November 2009 to 5.8% in November 2010.

The jobless rate in Vancouver Island/Coast remains the lowest among the regions



BC Stats

The Nation

Nationwide, a fall in the number of persons in the labour force (-0.2%) and a marginal increase in employment (+0.1%) caused the jobless rate to drop 0.3 percentage points to 7.6%. Ontario was the only province to register notable employment gains (+0.5%), while employment declined in Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.6%), Manitoba (-0.5%), and Quebec (-0.4%).

Selected Statistics	Nov-10	Oct-10	Nov-09
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	6.9	7.4	8.0
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.9	8.4
BC Employment ('000)	2,326	2,322	2,273
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.7	66.0	66.1
Nov % change in employment relative to:	-	0.2	2.3
Nov % change in labour force relative to:	-	-0.3	1.2